

Nadine Heidrich  
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Dear Sir/Madam:

Not long ago, I was stranded at night in a remote area of northern Wisconsin due to a fuel pump failure on the new vehicle I was driving. I waited nearly an hour and a half in the dark for a passing vehicle to stop (several did not stop). I believe I was very fortunate that a good Samaritan did stop. Had there been cell reception in the area, I would not have been at the mercy of a complete stranger for assistance.

In my view, the idea of capping the Universal Service Fund is unthinkable. Aside from the safety situation I personally experienced, we need to grow support for rural wireless networks. This is not a “nice to have” capability, it is an absolute necessity based on how many Americans live. We are a mobile society and our ability to have rural access to mobile communications is simply fundamental to our country--we are not a small European nation.

Please help to protect and expand the Universal Service Fund (USF) for wireless providers. Capping the fund represents a restrictive act against rural America. Reduced support from the USF will hinder our ability to demonstrate that we, as a nation, believe in the safety and economic viability of all of our citizens—not just those living in urban areas. Lack of rural mobile infrastructure means dropped calls and poor or dead zones.

Your support is greatly needed to ensure we protect and advance this important capability.

Very truly yours,

Nadine Heidrich